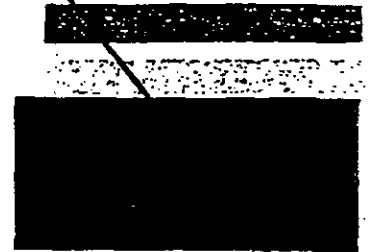




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CHILE: Talks Resume

Representatives of the opposition Democratic Alliance and of the government have resumed the dialogue that was suspended following antigovernment demonstrations last month. Both sides describe the new round of talks as satisfactory. Alliance leader Valdes says he has submitted a number of proposals to Interior Minister Jarpa that would speed the return to democracy and address some of the economic problems that have prompted the unrest. According to press reports, Valdes is calling for a plebiscite next year that would lead to a constituent assembly and constitutional reform. [REDACTED]

Comment: Both Jarpa and the Alliance had feared that a continued impasse in the talks would have allowed the radical left to seize the initiative from the government and the moderates. The resumption of talks will help the Alliance regain some lost momentum and may help moderate the tone of future protests. President Pinochet has been reluctant to agree to a plebiscite soon, however, and discussions on this proposal probably will be long and difficult. [REDACTED]